

## Message Text

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ORIGIN PM-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 INR-07 INRE-00 CIAE-00

H-02 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 NRC-05 ERDA-05 ACDA-05 OMB-01 OES-03 EPA-01

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EUR/WE - MR. GALLAGHER(DRAFT)

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OPNAV 616 - CAPT HURT

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O R 311445Z MAR 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

INFO CNO

CINCUSNAVEUR

COMSUBLANT

COMSUBGRU EIGHT NAPLES

COMNAVSEASYCOM

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 071792

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: MNUC, MARR, MPOL, IT

SUBJECT: RADIOLOGICAL MONITORING AT LA MADDALENA: CNEN  
REPORT ON FEB 24 ECOLOGY CONFERENCE

REFTEL ROME 4460

1. WE ARE CONCERNED WITH SUBSTANCE OF DRAFT CNEN  
ARTICLE AS CONTAINED IN REFTEL PARTICULARLY BECAUSE SUCH AN  
ARTICLE WILL APPEAR TO BE OFFICIAL VIEWS OF THE ITALIAN  
AGENCY THAT IS THE RECOGNIZED AUTHORITY IN RADIOLOGICAL  
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MATTERS. IF PUBLISHED, ARTICLE WILL ASSIST THOSE ELEMENTS

ATTEMPTING TO SHOW US NPW REPRESENT AN UNACCEPTABLE HEALTH HAZARD. ARTICLE CLEARLY DOES NOT PUT RADIOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF U.S. NPW OPERATIONS IN PROPER PERSPECTIVE AND, LEAVES OVERALL IMPRESSION THAT THESE OPERATIONS COULD RESULT IN A GROWING PUBLIC HEALTH HAZARD OF UNDEFINED PORTIONS. ACCORDINGLY, EMBASSY SHOULD MAKE PRESENTATION TO CNEN IN ATTEMPT TO HAVE PUBLICATION OF THE ARTICLE CANCELLED. SINCE WE FIND THE ARTICLE OBJECTIONABLE IN VIRTUALLY ALL ASPECTS, THERE ARE NO "MINOR CHANGES" WE CAN SUGGEST THAT WOULD ADEQUATELY CORRECT IT. FURTHER, IF THE ARTICLE IS PUBLISHED AS CURRENTLY DRAFTED, WE WANT

TO BE DISASSOCIATED WITH IT, SO AS TO BE IN POSITION TO PUBLICLY REFUTE THE DISTORTED IMPLICATIONS IF NECESSARY.

2. SPECIFICALLY, THE DRAFT CNEN ARTICLE MAY LEAVE IMPLICATIONS THAT WHATEVER HARBOR RADIOACTIVITY HAS BEEN DETECTED BY ITALIAN SURVEYS IS DUE TO U.S. SSN OPERATIONS AND THAT ALTHOUGH THE LEVELS ARE NOW OF NO SIGNIFICANCE FROM A HEALTH STANDPOINT, THEY ARE LIKELY TO BE LATER ON BECAUSE SSN'S ARE CONTINUING TO MAKE RADIOACTIVE DISCHARGES. THE ARTICLE CAUSES FURTHER ALARM BY CITING THE NEED FOR EXTENSIVE STUDIES TO DETERMINE THE BIOLOGICAL AND ECOLOGICAL EFFECTS OF AN INCREASING PRESENCE OF RADIOACTIVITY IN LA MADDALENA AND THE NEED FOR AN ELABORATE MONITORING SYSTEM TO DETECT THE ANTICIPATED INCREASES IN HARBOR RADIOACTIVITY LEVELS AND PROVIDE WARNING WHEN A REACTOR ACCIDENT OCCURS.

3. IN MAKING APPROACH TO CNEN EMBASSY MAY DRAW ON THE FOLLOWING GUIDANCE:

A. U.S. OBJECTS TO THRUST AND IMPLICATIONS OF DRAFT ARTICLE AND CONSIDERS IT TO BE DEFICIENT IN PROVIDING A BALANCED VIEWPOINT. FOR EXAMPLE, THE ARTICLE IMPLIES THAT LOW LEVEL RADIOACTIVITY FOUND BY ITALIAN LA MADDALENA SURVEYS, THOUGH OF NO HEALTH HAZARD, IS PRESENT DUE TO U.S. NPW OPERATIONS. IT DOES NOT POINT OUT THAT THESE LOW LEVELS ARE TYPICAL BACKGROUND RADIOACTIVITY LEVELS WHICH

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EXIST IN HARBORS THE WORLD OVER, THAT THE LEVELS ARE COMPARABLE TO THOSE SHOWN TO EXIST IN THE U.S. NAVY RADIOLOGICAL SURVEY OF LA MADDALENA TAKEN BEFORE ANY U.S. SSN'S VISITED THE HARBOR, OR THAT SUBSEQUENT U.S. NAVY AND ITALIAN SURVEYS SHOW, WITHIN THE NORMAL STATISTICAL FLUCTUATIONS OF THE TYPE OF SAMPLING BEING CONDUCTED, THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO INCREASE IN THE HARBOR BACKGROUND RADIOACTIVITY LEVELS DUE TO NPW OPERATIONS.

B. ARTICLE CITES NEED FOR ACCESS TO TECHNICAL INFORMATION TO DESCRIBE WAY IN WHICH U.S. SHIPS PRODUCE AND DISCHARGE RADIOACTIVE WASTES. BUT AS CNEN ALREADY KNOWS, THIS INFORMATION IS PROVIDED IN ANNUAL U.S. NAVY REPORT NT-74-1 AND ADDITIONAL TECHNICAL DETAILS ARE CLASSIFIED AND NOT RELEASABLE ACCORDING TO U.S. LAW.

C. ARTICLE CITES NEED FOR ECOLOGICAL STUDIES AND EXTERNAL EMERGENCY ACCIDENT PLAN. BUT THERE IS NO RECOGNITION THAT, AS CITED IN NT-74-1 THE SHIPS AND SUPPORT FACILITIES

IN U.S. NAVAL NUCLEAR PROPULSION PROGRAM IN TOTAL, DISCHARGE LESS THAN 0.002 CURIE OF NON-GASEOUS RADIOACTIVITY ANNUALLY IN ALL PORTS AND TERRITORIAL WATERS VISITED WORLD-WIDE, AN AMOUNT WHICH IS OF NO CONSEQUENCE TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH OR THE ENVIRONMENT. NOR IS THERE ANY MENTION THAT ESTABLISHMENT OF AN EMERGENCY PLAN IS ONLY AN EXTENSION OF CIVIL DEFENSE OR NATURAL DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND THAT U.S. NPW HAVE HAD OVER 20 YEARS OF ACCIDENT FREE OPERATION.

4. SHOULD CNEN BE UNWILLING TO CANCEL OR COMPLETELY REVISE THE ARTICLE, AT ITS DISCRETION, EMBASSY MAY WISH TO INFORM APPROPRIATE ITALIAN MFA OFFICIALS OF CONCERN PROPOSED ARTICLE COULD HAVE ON LA MADDALENA BASING. KISSINGER

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